



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

extensive territory but I find more records for Illinois than in previous years. I have examined twenty-eight specimens so far (Dec. 9) received by two of our Chicago taxidermists, the earliest record being Oct. 31. Some of these specimens came from Cook and Lake Counties, Ill., Ironwood, Mich., and from a few localities in Wisconsin. On Nov. 17 I saw a specimen on the "Skokie" marsh, near Highland Park, Ill. After flying a few hundred yards, it alighted on the top of a large haycock where it remained for an hour. In Maine several have been taken near Bangor, and five were sent in to Portland Nov. 14, all taken on Richmond Island, off Scarborough Beach. Mr. M. Abbott Frazar of Boston, writes me under date of Dec. 2, that his establishment had received about twenty specimens, the earliest date being about Nov. 20. They came from different localities on Cape Cod. Mr. H. S. Hathaway of Providence, R. I., reports five as taken in that State on Nov. 16 and 18. About two thirds of the owls which I have examined were large dark females. Some of the males were in fairly light plumage, but none approached the pure white dress in which they are sometimes found.—RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

**The Downy Woodpecker.**—For more than a year past a Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens*) has made his home in the backyard of the house where I live. He was induced to stay last winter by a piece of fat meat which was nailed to one of the trees. In the early winter he drilled a hole in a dead cherry limb about six feet from the ground, and I believe used it all winter as a night refuge. During the past summer it was used occasionally by the same bird, though not with any regularity. About sunset he flies into the hole, which is only four inches deep, and sits there with his head out watching the surroundings until dark. The hole is only about twenty feet away from a back porch of the house that is in constant use, and the bird does not seem to be annoyed by his proximity to the persons sitting there.

On my walks through the woods this fall I have noticed a number of newly drilled holes in dead stumps which look as if they had been made by the woodpeckers for winter refuges. This is a habit of the bird which does not seem to have been noted in the natural histories.—R. P. SHARPLES, *West Chester, Pa.*

**Breeding of the Prairie Horned Lark in Eastern Massachusetts.**—As a supplement to Dr. C. W. Townsend's note on the discovery in August, 1903, of young *Otocoris alpestris praticola* at Ipswich, Mass., where they had undoubtedly been bred (Auk, XXI, p. 81, Jan., 1904), it may be worth while to record that on Sept. 4, 1905, I obtained two birds of this subspecies, shot in my presence by a gunner (who mistook them for plover!) out of three which were flitting about a stony beach and a grassy hillside at Ipswich. One of these birds is apparently an adult, but the other is a young bird in juvenal plumage just moulting into the first